

# SOLID WASTE *works*

winter 2008

Solid Waste Works is a quarterly employee newsletter published by the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management

## Bostic's Giants Lead the Charge for United Way

If you are having fun while giving to charity then you will give more generously. Surely that must have been the United Way Committee's view when it came up with charity events like the Brain Bowl, Fish Fry and Barbecue Lunch to help raise funds for the United Way campaign.

Whatever the United Way Committee's goal was, it worked. Thanks to the generosity of DSWM employees, the Department was able to surpass its fundraising goal of \$5,000 by raising \$10,000. The grand total DSWM contribution was \$90,000.

*Continued on page 2*



"Bostic's Giants" winners of the 2007 Brain Bowl.



Juanita Lawrence serving Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson and Stacey McDuffie.

## DID YOU KNOW?

♻️ Landfills are an essential element of a solid waste system.

♻️ DSWM has a total landfill capacity of approximately 41 million tons of trash.

♻️ It will take about 15 years for DSWM landfills to reach capacity.



### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Dear DSWM Staff,*

We set some incredible goals last year and with teamwork and dedication we've managed to reach them.

Because of your hard work, we met the Mayor's challenge to successfully complete the EZ Go Waste Cart implementation; we began the process for a new single stream recycling program and made strides to improve performance in bulky waste collection.

Because of the results shown and your commitment to the job, we successfully completed the annual budget process and the Board has approved several important projects for the new year.

In 2008 we will face new challenges and important changes that will only enhance our service to the community.

We must focus our attention on the introduction of a new curbside recycling program, as well as the revival of commercial and multi-family recycling education, enforcement, the continued incorporation of the County's 3-1-1 system and the initiation of a new solid waste management master plan.

Improving customer service will be a major responsibility for everyone in the Department. This goal was reinforced at the DSWM

Senior Staff Retreat where County Manager George M. Burgess said it best highlighting that "DSWM employees are ambassadors for the County." As County ambassadors and DSWM representatives, we must perform at our best at all times to achieve greatness in the community that we serve.

These and all of our efforts will continue to be measured and evaluated through expanded use of Active Strategy and other performance tools.

Fortunately for all our hard work through the year, the Department will be undergoing some reorganization and staffing enhancements, which will assist us in these and other important endeavors.

I look forward to everything we can accomplish together and the bright future ahead of us this year.

*Kathleen Woods-Richardson*  
Director

## Bostic's Giants, *continued from page 1*

The United Way campaign, which ran from October 1 through the middle of December, included more than 45 events. The favorite event was the Brain Bowl.

Three teams of employees from the Administrative, Operations and Technical Services Divisions competed against each other in true game show fashion, not for money, but for the opportunity to represent

their Division and earn bragging rights.

DSWM employees were encouraged to donate money on behalf of the team they were supporting: the "Rose Raiders" led by Chris Rose; the "Bostic's Giants" led by James Bostic; and "Lou's Clues" led by Lou Rodriguez.

The teams competed by answering three rounds of questions about the DSWM. In the end, James Bostic's "Bostic's Giants" took the title and crowned Jeffrey Sellers its most valuable player.

"Bostic's Giants," who will hold the crown until the next Brain Bowl, were made up of: Christy Cumbie, Office Support Specialist; Gayle Love, Special Projects Administrator; Tony Abascal, Fleet Coordinator; Yolanda Smiley, Routing Supervisor; and Jeffrey Sellers, Waste Supervisor.

The Brain Bowl didn't raise the most money, but it succeeded in other goals like bringing employees together, and giving employees the opportunity to show their knowledge of the Department.

Volunteers and the top fundraising Divisions were recognized at a Super



Christopher Rose congratulates James Bostic.



Brain Bowl judges Lee Casey, Pamela Payne and Vicente Castro.



Ronald Sands, Billy Hardemon and Marvelous Hardemon prepare for the fish fry.



Brain Bowl scorekeepers Nadine Williams, Felicia Peterman and Carla McMullen.

Volunteers Award Ceremony on January 14. Enforcement led all Divisions with a total of \$1,867 raised.

Thanks to the efforts of the United Way Committee, led by Stacey McDuffie, Eugene Thomas and Robert Menge, all the teams and the entire DSWM staff, the United Way gets the real prize.

## DSWM Videos On-Demand

Have you visited [www.miamidade.gov/ondemand](http://www.miamidade.gov/ondemand) lately? If not, you are missing out on current information to keep you in the know. The DSWM takes pride in improving our community and providing convenient services to Miami-Dade County residents. As part of the information portal for Miami-Dade County, the Department makes video clips about our services viewable to anyone at anytime.

With Video On-Demand, visitors to the site can do more than read information, now you can instantly view services provided by the Department. Videos on the site include: "EZ Does it Automated Collection," which illustrates where to properly place your EZ Go Waste Cart for curbside collection; and "Prepare Now for the Storm," with tips on preparing for hurricane season.

DSWM Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson filmed informative interview

segments on bulky waste, litter and illegal dumping for the Miami-Dade County TV show County Connection. County Connection airs on Miami-Dade TV, the County's government access television station, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.; and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., but the Director's interview segments are available for you to watch anytime On-Demand.

The County Connection interview segments are also available on Video On-Demand to view directly from the DSWM



website at [www.miamidade.gov/dswm](http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm). In addition to the Director's interview segments, be on the lookout for other services that will be showcased on the site. The convenience of Video On-Demand is just one more way that Miami-Dade County strives to *Deliver Excellence Every Day*.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## CORNER

*Delivering Excellence Every Day*

Forty-five DSWM staff members have been rewarded for their hard work on the job with a promotion during the first quarter of the fiscal year. The following is a listing of the employees and their new positions:

### **Human Resources Manager**

Yolanda Minus

### **Special Projects Adm. 1**

Khanya Clark

### **Trash Truck Driver 1**

Samuel Brown Jr.

Stefanie Brown

Frederick Cherry

Kevin Chew

Eric Dennison

Bobby Floyd

Darmon Horne

Eloise Jackson

Lorian Mallary

Latravis Martin

Devan Parrish

Leonvil Petit-Frere

Frantz Registre

Henry Riley

Jerry Thomas

Jermaine Young

### **Trash Truck Driver 2**

Tracy Bell

William Bryant

Willie Davis

### **Trash Crane Operator**

Charlie Byrdo

Vidal Valdivia

### **Waste Truck Driver**

Daniel Auguste

Maximo Cabonell

Clarence Cade

Carl Clay

Milton Cook

William Davis

Daryl Dixon

Milton Frederick

Glenn Guise

Antonio Jarrett

Germalon Hollingshed

Raymond Mills

Eric Murray

Eddie Russell

Gregory Stewart

Christopher Thompson

Jimmy Ware

Clement Windsor

### **Waste Attendant 2**

Terrell Colson

Dwight McMillan

### **Waste Equipment Operator**

Fred Ferguson

Elvin Mafes

Finally, congratulations, best wishes and a heartfelt thank you for jobs well done to 12 DSWM employees who have recently retired:

- Edward Allen, *Waste Supervisor, Trash Division*, 39 years
- Harry Lovett, *Waste Collector, Garbage Division*, 37 years
- Joseph Randle, *Waste Truck Driver, Garbage Division*, 34 years
- Richard Hurley, *Waste Equipment Operator, Transfer Division*, 28 years
- Marguerite Lumpkins, *Waste Scale Operator, Landfill Division*, 26 years
- L.W. Sherrod, *Division Director Trash Division*, 23 years
- Tony Brinson, *Trash Truck Driver 2, Transfer Division*, 22 years
- Joseph Hull, *Trash Truck Driver 1, Trash Division*, 19 years
- Raul Nieves, *Trash Truck Driver 2, Transfer Division*, 19 years
- Inetha Hawkins, *Trash Truck Driver 1, Trash Division*, 17 years
- David Sanchez, *Trash Truck Driver 2, Transfer Division*, 15 years
- Vinadies Cage, *Clerk 2, Enforcement Division*, 6 years

Welcome the following new members to the DSWM team:

Latoya Favors,  
*Waste Scale Operator,  
Landfill Division*

Kathryn Hudson,  
*Enforcement and Collection Clerk,  
Enforcement Division*

Bridgit Maldonado,  
*Clerk 2,  
Enforcement Division*

Alicia Giacci,  
*Adm. Secretary, Enforcement Division*

Brittany Lewis,  
*Waste Scale Operator, Landfill Division*

Odetta Peters,  
*Cashier 1, Accounting Division*

## Who Gets Your Benefits?

Do you know who is listed as your beneficiary in the event of your death? Have you married, divorced, given birth to or adopted a child? Have you lost a loved one you had named as a beneficiary or did you simply change your mind regarding your named beneficiary?

This is too important to ignore! If you don't name your beneficiaries, the State will. To avoid the State of Florida deciding who receives benefits from your will or insurance policy, schedule an appointment with the Human Resources Division, Payroll and Benefits staff to review your records.

If you have immediate questions and work in the Garbage, Technical Services

or Administration Divisions, please call 305-514-6709; Trash, Maintenance, Landfill or Transfer Station Divisions, please call 305-514-6698.



## FREE MULCH

Let your friends and neighbors know that free mulch created from recycled Christmas trees will be available to service area residents beginning February 1 at the following locations:



>> **Sunset Kendall**  
**8000 SW 107 Avenue**

>> **North Dade**  
**21500 NW 47 Avenue**

>> **Eureka Drive**  
**9401 SW 184 Street**

## A True DSWM Ambassador!

Whoever said that good help is hard to find might reconsider after hearing the kind act performed by Waste Truck Driver David Clark while off-duty. Clark offered a helping hand to Victor Lundstrom who was stuck with a flat tire on Thanksgiving Day with a turkey and all the trimmings in tow. Clark is indeed a DSWM ambassador and an outstanding representation of our commitment to the community. Lundstrom showed his appreciation by writing to Darran Kinsey, Clark's Supervisor.

*Dear Mr. Kinsey, my name is Victor Lundstrom and I'm a Plant Diesel Maintenance Supervisor for the Water and Sewer Department. Thanksgiving morning, my wife and I got a flat tire driving to our daughter's home with the turkey and all the trimmings in our truck. Mr. Clark stopped and offered his assistance before knowing that I'm a fellow County employee and my wife works for the State. Mr. Clark offered the use of his floor jack seeing us struggling with the stock jack. Our 2002 Ford Excursion tips the scales at 7,200 pounds and without Mr. Clark's jack we wouldn't have been able to change the tire. Thanks to Mr. Clark's kindness we ate on time and had a wonderful day with our family. All too often there's bad press about County employees, except this time. We found Mr. Clark to be a nice person and good example of a County employee that you should be proud to supervise. Thank you Mr. Kinsey.*

*Victor Lundstrom*

*Plant Diesel Maintenance Supervisor  
Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department*

## HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION

DSWM employees were hard at work during the holiday season collecting extra tons of garbage. The Friday after New Year's an extra 1,700 tons of garbage was collected. That amount was exceeded the Friday after Christmas by another 600 tons. The Garbage Division not only collected more than 7,800 tons of garbage on those two Fridays, but they worked extra hours to get the job done.

Their hard work and dedication during the holiday season set the tone for a prosperous new year at the Department. Job well done by the Garbage Division!



# Accounting Division Receives Top Honors

For the 13th consecutive year the DSWM's Accounting Division has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the development of the Department's stellar Annual Report. The Division received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of recognition in the area of accounting and financial reporting that a government agency can receive.

The award for the Annual Report of the 2005

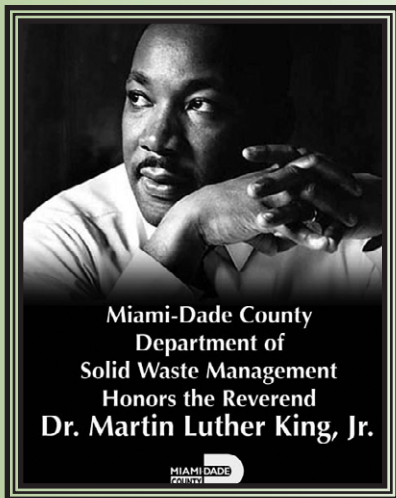
– 2006 fiscal year was judged by an impartial panel as demonstrating a spirit of full disclosure for clearly communicating the DSWM's financial story and motivating potential users to read the report.

Congratulations to Maria Sanchez and the Accounting Division for their significant achievements and for *Delivering Excellence Every Day*, year after year.



The Accounting Division with Deputy Director Christopher Rose, Controller Maria Sanchez and Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson.

## In Memory of Dr. King



The DSWM participated in MLK parades throughout Miami-Dade County during the holiday weekend.

In this issue of Solid Waste Works we celebrate the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., January 15, 1929, and his impact on the lives of solid waste workers.

When the sanitation workers of Memphis, Tennessee were sent home early

from work on January 31, 1968 due to bad weather, they were shortchanged in pay. That one day climaxed a history of unfair treatment of workers causing the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike.

The sanitation workers shut down the garbage collection, sewer, water and street maintenance of an entire city to get their message across. Because so few garbage trucks were in operation, it was reported that 10,000 tons of garbage piled up two weeks into the strike.

Dr. King went to Memphis that spring to bring national attention to the strike and to help negotiate a peaceful ending as 116 strikers and supporters were arrested for sitting in at City Hall. On April 3, 1968, Dr. King inspired a crowd at a Memphis rally when he delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech.

Dr. King never lived to see the end of



The FAMU band played at the MLK plaza.

the Memphis sanitation strike. While in Memphis on April 4, 1968, one day after his inspiring speech, a sniper assassinated Dr. King as he stood on the balcony outside his room at the Lorraine Hotel.

On April 16, 1968, workers were able to vote and settle on an agreement with the city that ended the Memphis sanitation strike.



AFSCME Local 3292, Union President, Marie Mobley-Johnson.



Members of AFSCME Local 3292.



DSWM Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson.



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Employees Extinguish Fire on the Hill

*Delivering Excellence Every Day* is something we all strive to do, but during an emergency or dangerous situation it can be easy to panic, lose focus or get severely hurt. But it's during this time when performance is truly put to the test.

Two of our own, Waste Equipment Operators John Priest and Billy Hudson, were put to the test and helped extinguish a potentially hazardous situation.

High temperatures combined with dry conditions ignited a fire at the DSWM's North Dade Landfill.



Because of the complexities of the landfill, it is susceptible to producing fires. Windy conditions could have caused the fire to spread quickly, but Priest, Hudson and several other experienced employees quickly created a breach around the fire to contain it. With the help of the Miami-Dade County Fire Department, it was put out with limited damage.

Besides smoke, there was no damage to the environment, none of the equipment was damaged and the flow of waste processing was not interrupted.

A job well done to everyone on the hill that day. The Department can rest easy knowing that



From left: Waste Equipment Operators John Priest and Billy Hudson.

Priest and Hudson are *Delivering Excellence Every Day*.



### Leon P. Longmire

June 18, 1954 - December 2, 2007

On December 2, the Department lost a great friend and co-worker in Leon P. Longmire. Longmire began his DSWM career in 1983 as a Waste Collector and was promoted four times up to Waste Supervisor 2. In 2004, he was named Miami-Dade County Employee of the Year in the Logistical Support Category. Leon Longmire was laid to rest in Mobile, Alabama and will be deeply missed.

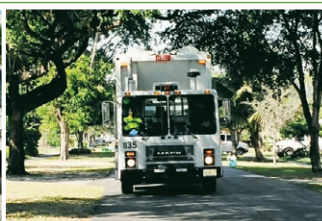
### Kevin McGee, Sr.

August 24, 1964 - January 9, 2008

It is with deepest sympathies that the DSWM announce the loss of Kevin McGee, Sr. In 2002, McGee began his career at the Department as a part-time Waste Attendant in the Trash Division. McGee's passing on January 9, reflects the loss of another great contributor to the DSWM family. Kevin McGee was laid to rest in South Miami-Dade County.



**Delivering Excellence  
Every Day**



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